United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1377
22 April 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council condemns "unequivocally" killing of United Nations peace-keeping personnel and demands that attacks on United Nations peace-keepers cease forthwith.

+ Security Council mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina to be composed of France, Hungary, New Zealand, Pakistan, Russian Federation and Venezuela.

+ Secretary-General, on first day of three-day visit to Belgium, delivers address to Foreign Affairs Commissions of Senate and House at Belgian Parliament.

+ Special Commission inspection team orders Iraqi authorities to destroy chemical weapons material.

+ Erik Jensen appointed by Secretary-General as Chairman of Identification Commission for Referendum in Western Sahara for period of six months.

+ Ukraine asks Security Council to consider urgently ways of compensating economic losses suffered by States as result of sanctions against Yugoslav Federal Republic.

+ Italy donates 27 tonnes of relief supplies to Eritrea, according to Department for Humanitarian Affairs.

+ Secretary-General sends message to opening of forty-ninth session of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok yesterday.

+ Fifth Committee recommends revised 1992-1993 programme budget arising from restructuring of Secretariat; General Assembly would appropriate some $2.45 billion.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

+ 1993 World Conference on Human Rights should focus on world's poorest, underdevelopment, lack of health care and various other forms of violations of economic, social and cultural rights, according to participants in planning Committee.

* * *

The Security Council has "unequivocally condemned" the recent killing of two soldiers serving with the United Nations Protection Force in former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR). A Czech peace-keeper was killed as a result of artillery shelling of Sector South in Croatia today, and an Ukranian peace-keeper was struck by an artillery fragment in Sarajevo last week. In addition, the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) suffered a further casualty with the killing of another Bulgarian soldier by the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK) last weekend.

In a statement to the press issued by Council President Jamsheed K.A. Marker (Pakistan) this evening, the Council demanded that attacks on United Nations peace-keeping personnel cease forthwith.

The deaths of the two soldiers serving with the United Nations Protection Force in former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) bring to 39 the total of UNPROFOR soldiers killed in the line of duty since 1992, the statement said.

Members of the Council expressed their condolences to the bereaved families of the soldiers concerned and to the Governments of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Ukraine.

* * *

The Security Council mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina to assess the situation there will be composed by Council members from France, Hungary, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and Venezuela, according to an announcement by Council President Marker yesterday.

The Council decided under resolution 819 (1993), adopted last weekend, that it would send a mission, as soon as possible, to ascertain firsthand the situation in Bosnia and to report back.

* * *

On the first of his three-day visit to Belgium, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali delivered an address this morning to the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the Senate and the House at the Belgian Parliament.

According to a United Nations spokesman, the topic of Zaire was discussed following the Secretary-General's speech. Mr. Boutros-Ghali, in reply to a question, said that the United Nations had not received an official request from Zaire or from any other Member State to consider the situation in that country, but was following developments closely. At this preliminary stage, he said, the United Nations was studying how best to contribute to finding a

(more)

solution to the problem. Recently, the Secretary-General had consulted with the Permanent Representatives of Belgium, France and the United States.

Earlier this morning, the Secretary-General met with Vitaly Churkin, Special Envoy of the Russian Federation to former Yugoslavia. Later, he received the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Manfred Worner, for a discussion of the possible role of NATO member States in the implementation of the Vance/Owen plan; the enforcement of the "no-fly zone" over Bosnia and Herzegovina; and cooperation between the United Nations and NATO.

* * *

A chemical weapons inspection team of the Special Commission on Iraq's Disarmament has ordered Iraqi authorities to dismantle certain equipment and remove it and quantities of precursor chemicals to the Muthanna State Establishment for destruction.

The team, which conducted its activities in Iraq from 9 to 16 April, examined three facilities built for the production of precursor chemicals for Iraq's chemical weapons programme. It instructed Iraq to move several tonnes of precursor chemicals located at another site to Muthanna, also for destruction there.

Further inspections were conducted at a number of previously declared sites and at one undeclared site to determine whether they had had any association with Iraq's former chemical weapons programme. In particular, the team was interested in examining certain previously observed munitions to assess whether they could be used for chemical warfare purposes.

The Special Commission will be analyzing the results of this inspection to assess whether any of the facilities or items inspected will need to be monitored in the long-term.

* * *

Erik Jensen has been appointed by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali as Chairman of the Identification Commission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, according to a United Nations spokesman today. The appointment, which is at the Assistant Secretary-General level, is for a period of six months.

Before his present appointment, Mr. Jensen was Director and Deputy to the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Public Affairs, with particular responsibility for preparations for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations. From 1990 to 1992, he was Director of the Division of General Assembly Affairs, and prior to that, Director of the United Nations Information Centre and UNDP representative in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Jensen is a national of Malaysia.

(more)

* * *

Ukraine has asked the Security Council to consider urgently ways of compensating economic losses suffered by States as a result of the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

In a letter to the President of the Council, dated 17 April, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Ukraine, Anatoly Zlenko, said the losses suffered by Ukraine should "be taken into account" by the United Nations in assessing the country's contribution to the regular budget and peace-keeping operations.

Ukraine suggested that the system of sanctions "should be more logical and streamlined", while economic losses arising from its enforcement should be "equally distributed" among the most developed Member States. If the sanctions were strengthened, the international trade lane by the Danube, which is "vitally crucial" for Ukraine's economy, would be practically blocked, the letter noted.

The letter was transmitted to the Council President by Victor Batiouk, the Ukrainian Permanent Representative to the United Nations.
S/25630

* * *

Italy has donated 27 tonnes of relief supplies to Eritrea. The Italian donation was in response to an international appeal by the provisional Government of Eritrea for emergency relief, following a severe hail storm last weekened. The storm caused heavy damage to residential areas, port facilities and surrounding villages of the port city of Massawa. Over 15,000 people were left homeless. The suplies were dispatched from the Department of Humanitarian Affairs' Pisa Warehouse.

* * *

Support for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the main regional arm of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, was "vitally important", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in a message to the opening of the forty-ninth session of ESCAP in Bangkok yesterday. Strengthened regional cooperation was a key element in achieving political and socio-economic progress, he said, and the role played by the regional commissions in that process should be reinvigorated.

The Secretary-General stressed the capacity for sustained economic growth displayed by many Asian countries which constituted a tribute to their sound economic policies and to the vitality and creativity of their peoples. It was disappointing, however, that despite the region's overall progress, many countries had failed to register any significant economic progress, he added.

The Secretary-General's message was read out by Rafeeuddin Ahmed, Executive Secretary of ESCAP.

(more)

* * *

The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has recommended that the General Assembly appropriate some $2.45 billion for the biennium 1992-1993, on revised estimates from the restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat.

By the terms of a draft text adopted yesterday, the Assembly would generally approve the Secretary-General's proposals regarding high-level posts, but would again stress the need for a "timely dialogue" between the Secretary-General and Member States on the restructuring.

The Committee also approved a draft decision concerning seven United Nations interim offices in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

* * *

The 1993 World Conference on Human Rights should focus on the fate of the world's poorest segments, underdevelopment, lack of health care and various other forms of violations of economic, social and cultural rights. That proposal was made on Tuesday by representatives of several United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations, who addressed the planning Committee for the Conference, scheduled in Vienna from 14 to 25 June.

The Committee, which is currently holding a general debate on the final outcome of the Conference, will end its session tomorrow.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1378
23 April 1993

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Iraq still unwilling to comply with obligations and to facilitate Special Commission's task of monitoring and verifying Iraq's proscribed programmes, says Secretary-General in report to Council; meanwhile, International Atomic Energy Agency states Iraq's resistance to provide clarification on nuclear material declarations "makes impossible a conclusion by the IAEA" that all such material has been declared and presented to IAEA.

+ Secretary-General, on second day of visit to Belgium, holds talks with officials from Zaire on situation in that country and possible United Nations role; meets Prime Minister of Belgium, and President of European Commission, among others.

+ Lord Owen, Co-Chairman of International Conference on former Yugoslavia, holds meetings in Macedonia, Greece and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); progress reported on Macedonian issue; meanwhile, Council's fact-finding mission arrives in Zagreb.

+ France and Indonesia, Co-Chairmen of Paris Conference on Cambodia, express strong support for upcoming elections in May; vigorously condemn all acts of violence in that country and appeal to all Cambodian parties to respect electoral results; reiterate full commitment to implement Paris Agreements.

+ Referendum in Eritrea proceeds "smoothly", according to Secretary-General's Special Envoy Samir Sanbar; 1.1 million people registered to vote, supervised by 500 international observers.

+ Upcoming United Nations Conference on Human Rights must assess universality of human rights commitment, says former President Jimmy Carter at press conference at Headquarters; United Nations role in identification, correction and prevention of human rights crimes also emphasized.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

* * *

Iraq's "spurious complaints and allegations" about the motives and activities of Security Council's Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament demonstrate Iraq's unwillingness both to comply with its obligations and to facilitate the task of the Commission, said Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in a report to the Security Council. The Commission's assessment remains that Iraq is seeking to ensure that implementation of the United Nations plan proceeds on the basis of its interpretation of its obligations, rather than on the basis of Security Council resolutions and the plan adopted by the Council, stated Mr. Boutros-Ghali.

Iraq's reluctance to provide willingly the information required by the Commission in order for it to fulfil its mandate means that the Commission has to be more "extensive and intrusive" in its efforts to obtain that information, continued the Secretary-General. Nevertheless, he went on saying, the Commission continued to revisit or survey from the air sites identified as having been used for activities proscribed in resolution 687 (1991) in order to ensure that those activities have not been resumed. The Commission has already identified many additional sites which will require further monitoring.

However, cautioned the Secretary-General, the Commission remains constrained from going into full-scale monitoring and verification. Unless Iraq changes its position, the Commission will not be in a position to ensure that Iraq does not reactivate its proscribed programmes, warned Mr. Boutros-Ghali.

The report, dated 19 April, is the third in a series of reports submitted to the Council, in accordance with Council's request that the Secretary-General submit to it a report every six months on the implementation of the Special Commission's plans for the ongoing monitoring and verification of Iraq's compliance with Council's relevant resolutions on Iraqi disarmement.

Meanwhile, in a report to the Secretary-General, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix, has stated that the renewed resistance by the Iraqi authorities to providing clarifications as to the nuclear material declarations "makes impossible a conclusion by the IAEA" that all such material has been declared and presented to the IAEA.

Furthermore, indicated Mr. Blix, the Iraqi Government has also persisted in its refusal to provide IAEA with information related to foreign procurement and procurement network, "in particular as it relates to the Iraqi enrichment programme". The continuing discovery of additional material and items which "should have been declared by Iraq, but which had not been", further prevented the establishment of a technical basis for implementing effectively the long-term monitoring of Iraqi activities, "as foreseen in resolution 715", noted Mr. Blix.

The report, transmitted to the Council by the Secretary-General on 19 April, is the third report submitted by the IAEA every six months on its plan for future monitoring and verification related to Iraq's nuclear capabilities. Their submission is in conformity with Security Council's resolution 715 (1991).

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, on second day of his official visit to Belgium, met this afternoon with Laurent Monsengwo, President of the High Council of the Republic of Zaire. The deteriorating situation in that country and the possibility of a role for the United Nations there were discussed. The Secretary-General then received Zaire's Minister of Communication and Press and the Minister of Environment and Tourism, who gave him a message from the Prime Minister.

Also today, the Secretary-General met with the Prime Minister of Belgium, Jean-Luc Dehaene, who gave a luncheon in his honour. Earlier, Mr. Boutros-Ghali had talks with the Belgian Deputy Prime Minister, and with Jacques Delors, President of the Commission of the European Communities.

Yesterday evening, the Secretary-General delivered a lecture to the Grandes Conférences Catholiques, which was attended by the Belgian King and Queen, members of the Government, Mr. Delors and representatives of the diplomatic corps.

Tonight, the Secretary-General was to receive a doctorate honoris causa from the Université Catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve.

The Secretary-General is due back in New York on Monday.

* * *

Lord Owen, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia, has made progress during negotiations between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece held yesterday in Skopje and Athens, told correspondents today Joe Sills, Spokesman for the Secretary General. However, talks between the two countries, which had originally been scheduled to resume on Monday, were not likely to resume until the middle of next week, he said.

Lord Owen was in Montenegro today, and was scheduled to leave for Belgrade this evening for further talks with Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Slobodan Milosevic, President of Serbia, and Dobrica Cosic, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

Earlier today, Lord Owen met with Moomir Bulatovic, President of Montenegro, and with members of his cabinet and parliamentary leaders of different parties.

Meanwhile, the Security Council's fact-finding mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina was to be briefed this evening in Zagreb by Force Commander General Lars-Eric Wahlgren on all aspects of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in former Yugoslavia and was expected to leave the Croatian capital tomorrow.

The fact-finding mission travelled to Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with Security Council's decision last week to send a mission to

(more)

ascertain firsthand the situation in the area and to report back. The mission is composed of Council members from France, Hungary, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and Venezuela.

* * *

The signatory States of the Paris Agreements on Cambodia firmly support the decision of the Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia that elections should be held from 23 to 27 May, according to a joint communiqué issued today by the Permanent Missions of France and Indonesia to the United Nations. The two States co-chaired the Paris Conference on Cambodia.

In the statement, the signatory States reiterated their full commitment to the Paris Agreements and called on all Cambodian parties to respect the election results, provided they are certified free and fair by the United Nations.

The statement also condemned all acts of violence committed on political or ethnic grounds, particularly murders of personnel of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

* * *

Eritrea's referendum began today and everything was going smoothly, according to Samir Sanbar, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Eritrea.

Around 1.1 million people were registered to vote and some 500 international observers were on hand for the referendum, which was to continue until 25 April.

* * *

One of the goals of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Human Rights is to assess the universality of human rights commitment, former president Jimmy Carter told correspondents this morning at Headquarters.

"Secondly, we want to see the United Nations be much more effective as an instrument for the identification of human rights crimes, the correction of those crimes and even more importantly, prevention of human rights crimes", Mr. Carter explained, pointing out that, according to United Nations estimates, "more than half the people in the world suffer from some kind of human rights abuse".

Another important aspect of the conference, Mr. Carter went on saying, was "to identify the obstacles that presently exist" to making the global commitment for human rights more effective and the way "to overcome those obstacles".

(more)

Mr. Carter also said that, with the end of the Cold War, there was a need for the United Nations to assess the complexity of diverse human rights organizations within the system in order to bring them together in a more cohesive and effective manner.

The United Nations Conference on Human Rights is scheduled to take place in Vienna from 14 to 25 June.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1379
26 April 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Lord Owen, Co-Chairman of Yugoslav Conference, tells correspondents following five-day tour of region that peace plan "is not dead"; talks on Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to resume at Headquarters by mid-week; stronger sanctions against Yugoslav Federal Republic (Serbia and Montenegro) to take effect tonight, midnight.

- UNICEF Executive Director says children suffer "grotesque" abuse as instruments and victims of conflict, as UNICEF's Executive Board begins annual session at Headquarters.

- Cyprus offers to contribute one third of annual cost of United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus.

- Oliver Tambo, National Chairman of ANC, who died Saturday, was "remarkable political leader", Secretary-General says in cable to Mr. Tambo's widow.

- Secretary-General, in speech delivered to House and Senate of Belgian Parliament, commends efforts by Belgium to promote diplomatic cooperation within Security Council, particularly among European States.

* * *

Lord Owen, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, told correspondents in Belgrade this morning that the Vance/Owen plan was "not dead". He made the comment before returning to Geneva after a five-day tour of the region.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

At a press briefing at Headquarters this afternoon, Fred Eckhard, spokesman for the Co-Chairmen, said Lord Owen had also travelled to Athens for a five-hour meeting with the Greek Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. He announced that meetings concerning the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia would resume at Headquarters by mid-week.

Mr. Eckhard also reminded correspondents that the latest sanctions imposed by the Security Council under resolution 820 (1993) last weekend would go into efect tonight, midnight, if the Bosnian Serbs do not sign the peace plan. Earlier today, the Bosnian Serb "Parliament" turned down unanimously the Vance/Owen initiative. However, the spokesman stressed that Lord Owen was encouraged that three Presidents - of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, of Serbia and of Montenegro respectively, had publicly endorsed the Vance/Owen peace plan.

Also this morning, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met at Headquarters with Cyrus Vance, the other Co-Chairman of the Yugoslav Conference, for a "general review of matters", according to a United Nations spokesman.

In a related development, the Security Council's fact-finding mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina will delay its return to New York until tomorrow to permit a longer meeting with Franjo Tudjman, President of Croatia, in Zagreb this evening, according to Joe Sills, Spokesman for the Secretary-General. Earlier today, the mission held meetings with General Lars-Eric Wahlgren, Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), and with Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs.

Yesterday, the mission visited Srebrenica. In a statement, Diego Arria, Permanent Representative of Venezuela to the United Nations and mission coordinator, called the town "a symbol of resistance" and demanded a Serb withdrawal from around the town.

After Srebrenica, the Council mission travelled to Split to meet with Mate Boban, leader of the Bosnian Croats.

On Saturday, the mission met with Alija Izetbegovic, President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Sarajevo. It then travelled to Vitez and neighbouring villages. After visiting a house where a family had been massacred, Mr. Arria said such crimes were not ethnic cleansing, but "ethnic extermination". He added that those responsible could and should be stopped.

The Security Council decided last weekend, under resolution 819 (1993), to send the mission to ascertain firsthand the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is composed of Council members from France, Hungary, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and Venezuela.

(more)

* * *

Children suffer grotesque abuse as instruments and victims of conflict, James Grant, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), told UNICEF's Executive Board as it began its annual regular session at Headquarters today. However, he said that global development constantly created new opportunities for positive change.

During its two-week session, the Executive Board will consider such issues as the situation of children in Africa, "bridging" assistance to the former Soviet Union, and emergency operations in a new and dangerous environment. It will review programme recommendations for Africa, Latin America and the Carribbean, Asia and the Middle East, Central and Eastern Europe, and the newly independent States. This year, spending totaling $427 million from general resources and $682 million from supplementary funds has been recommended.

Last year, UNICEF spent $390 million from general resources and $354 million from supplementary funds. It cooperated in programmes in more than 130 countries, the majority in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

* * *

Cyprus has offered to contribute one third of the annual cost of United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). In a letter addressed to the Secretariat, A.J. Jacovides, the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations, confirmed that his Government would contribute some $16 million annually on a continuing basis.

The Secretary-General, in a recent report to the Security Council, has proposed to finance UNFICYP through assessed contributions from United Nations Member States to overcome its current financial problems. The letter said the Cypriot offer would facilitate such a solution for UNFICYP's financial difficulties.

* * *

Oliver Tambo, National Chairman of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), who died Saturday, was recognized in Africa and around the world as a remarkable political leader, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said Saturday in a cable to Mr. Tambo's widow, Adelaide Tambo.

Mr. Tambo not only championed the struggle against apartheid but also made a significant contribution towards the establishment of a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa, the Secretary-General said. He took over the leadership of ANC at a critical period and rose to many challenges with courage and foresight and particularly during the many years of its exile. Mr. Tambo's passing away took place at a time when South Africa was going through a trying period, he said.

(more)

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a speech delivered to the House and the Senate of the Belgian Parliament on Thursday, 22 April, reviewed the contribution made by Belgium to the work of the United Nations, in particular during the past two years when the country was a member of the Security Council.

He commended Belgium's efforts to promote diplomatic cooperation within the Security Council, particularly among European States. Such cooperation was important because the mandate of many United Nations peace-keeping operations had changed and now extended far beyond the perspective of mere peace-keeping. Today, he said, United Nations missions might involve electoral assistance, humanitarian assistance and administrative management. In addition, the principal clashes were taking place not between States, but within them, as exemplified by the situation in Yugoslavia.

It was important that regional organizations have both the political will and the financial and military resources to promote the international security at their level, the Secretary-General said. In working for peace, the United Nations' effectiveness would be enhanced to the extend that the diplomacy underpinning the Organization was clearly defined and that States formulated unambiguous positions. "Peace-keeping troops, who risk their lives daily, must understand the strategy that lies behind their action", he said.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1380
27 April 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Lasting settlement in Middle East must be accompanied by economic and social development in occupied territories, Secretary-General says in message to Paris Seminar on Assistance to Palestinian People.

+ Special Committee begins field mission today to Syria, Jordan and Egypt to review human rights situation in territories occupied by Israel.

+ Li Zhaoxing, new Permanent Representative of China to United Nations, presents his credentials to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

+ Eritrea votes overwhelmingly for independence; referendum was free and fair, says Secretary-General's Special Representative; Secretary-General hopes process will reinforce peace and security in area.

+ World Health Organization declares tuberculosis global emergency, warning that disease will claim 30 million lives in next decade.

+ Attitudes to family unit must be reconsidered because of shifting social trends, President of Malta tells Europe and North America Meeting for Year of Family in 1994; Secretary-General sends message.

+ WHO chooses "Time to Act" as 1993 World Aids Day theme.

* * *

The international community should aid economic and social development in the occupied territories for a lasting settlement in the Middle East, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in a message to the Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People. The four-day Seminar began yesterday at United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Headquarters in Paris.

The Secretary-General said the Seminar demonstrated the importance which United Nations Members attached to the question of Palestine. Recent developments in the region, requiring an emergency response to increased

(more)

For information media--not an official record

humanitarian needs of the Palestinians, had placed heavy demands on the United Nations system. While the United Nations programmes had expanded in an effort to accomodate the new circumstances, far more was required, he said.

Addressing the opening session, Ahmed Abu Ala of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) called for international aid for Palestinian schools, hospitals and municipal services. A Palestinian economy under conditions of full political and economic self-determination would be based on the immediate establishment of a Palestinian Development Bank, construction of a Gaza commercial port and industrial zones.

The Seminar is being held at the request of the General Assembly and was organized by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. It is part of the Committee's effort to mobilize support for the development of occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem.

* * *

The Special Committee investigating Israeli practices in the occupied territories will begin a field mission today to Syria, Jordan and Egypt to review the human rights situation in the territories occupied by Israel. The mission members will, during their two-week trip, collect the testimonies of persons with firsthand experience of the situation.

The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories is the principal organ of the United Nations mandated to investigate effects of such pratices on the population living in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, the West Bank including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. The Committe was established in 1968.

* * *

Li Zhaoxing, the new Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations, today presented his credentials to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

Prior to his appointment, Mr. Li was Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs of China. Previously, Mr. Li had been Director of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department, First Secretary of China's Embassy in Lesotho, and office staff and attaché of its Embassy in Kenya.

* * *

The people of Eritrea voted overwhelmingly for independence in last weekend's referendum, according to a United Nations spokesman, and the referendum process had been free and fair at every stage, the Secretary-General's Special Representative Samir Sanbar reported, on the basis of an evaluation by the United Nations Mission to Verify the Referendum in Eritrea (UNOVER).

(more)

The Secretary-General was very pleased with the conduct of the referendum and hoped that it would contribute to peace and security in the area, the spokesman said.

* * *

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared tuberculosis a global emergency, warning that the disease will claim 30 million lives in the next decade unless urgent steps are taken to curb its spread. Every year, 8 million people develop the disease. To find urgent ways to control the disease, the Coordination, Advisory and Review Group of the WHO Tuberculosis Programme last week held a two-day meeting in London.

Addressing the meeting, Dr. Arati Kochi, the manager of the WHO Tuberculosis Programme, said the disease had been grossly neglected in many countries despite the fact that it is preventable and treatable.

Tuberculosis is transmitted by bacteria spread into the air when a patient with active pulmonary tuberculosis -- an infection of the chest -- coughs or sneezes. Dr. Kochi said that modern transporation, migration, and refugees from wars and famines are the reasons why tuberculosis continues to spread in the industrialized as well as the developing world. Although Europe and North America have seen an increase in spread in the past five years, the majority of tuberculosis cases, and 95 per cent of tuberculosis-related deaths, are in the developing world.

According to the WHO Tuberculosis Programme, about $20 million is needed instantly to lay the foundations for effective national control programmes. Another $80 to $100 million would be needed annually to help countries continue those control programmes.

* * *

Attitudes to the family unit must be reconsidered because of shifting social trends, President Vincent Tabone of Malta said yesterday at the opening of the European and North American Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family in 1994. The meeting, which is being held in Valletta, will last until 30 April.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a message read out to the meeting, said families are at the heart of concerns for a better future, including care for the environment and sustainable development.

The General Assembly proclaimed 1994 the International Year of the Family in 1988 in order to increase awareness of family issues and to promote activities in support of families. There will be another Preparatory Meeting for Asia and the Pacific next month in Beijing, China, and one for Latin America and the Carribbean in August in Cartagena, Colombia.

(more)

* * *

The World Health Organization (WHO) has chosen "Time to Act" as the theme for this year's World Aids Day, observed annually on 1 December.

According to the WHO, an estimated 13 million men, women and children have already been infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). Without urgent action, AIDS cases could rise to 40 million worldwide, by the end of the century.

By choosing the theme "Time to Act", WHO hopes to focus attention on ensuring that care for people with HIV and AIDS is available everywhere, not just in developed countries. It hopes to fight the denial, discrimination and complacency regarding AIDS among governments, communities and individuals. The WHO calculates that 2.5 billion needs to be spent annually on AIDS prevention in the developing world -- fully 20 times the current sum.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1381
28 April 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ International control of heavy weapons and deployment of 60,000 to 75,000 peace-keeping troops would be part of wide range of measures in Bosnia and Herzegovina "if and when" all three Bosnian parties sign peace plan, says new report by Secretary-General.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement last night, condems UNITA's shooting down of WFP civilian plane on humanitarian mission in Angola; one Russian crew killed, another seriously injured.

+ Security Council recommends that General Assembly exclude Yugoslav Federal Republic (Serbia and Montenegro) from participating in work of Economic and Social Council; resolution adopted with China and Russian Federation abstaining.

+ Bosnian Serbs deny UNHCR convoys access to besieged town of Gorazde despite assurances of safe passage; 60,000 people face privation; Serbs also confiscate aid bound for Bihac.

+ Lord Owen returns to New York after tour of Balkans and meetings with European officials; looks to Yugoslav Federal Republic to pressure Bosnian Serbs to sign peace plan; talks between Greece and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia begin at Headquarters.

+ Seven-year development programme outlined in Paris Seminar on Assistance to Palestinian People; cost estimated at $11.6 billion annually.

+ Axel Wuestenhagen appointed Director of United Nations Information Service in Vienna.

* * *

Arrangements for the effective international control of heavy weapons and the deployment of 60,000 to 75,000 peace-keeping troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina would be part of a wide range of measures proposed "if and when"

(more)

For information media--not an official record

all three Bosnian parties sign the Vance/Owen peace plan, according to a new report by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He was asked by the Security Council, under resolution 820 (1993), to report on the preparations underway for the implementation of the peace plan once it has been accepted by all the parties.

In his report, dated 26 April, the Secretary-General said additional troops would be deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina to monitor the cessation of hostilities, the restoration of the infrastructure, separation of the forces and the demilitarization of Sarajevo. Other measures under the plan included the monitoring of that country's borders and the return of the forces to designated provinces.

Consultations had already begun, the report said, with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) which would contribute troops to the enlarged peace-keeping force in Bosnia and Herzegovina after the plan is signed. NATO had offered to make available a core headquarters in which other potential troop contributors could be incorporated.

The restoration of law, order and civilian authority throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina and the preparation of internationally supervised, free and fair elections were among the civilian tasks foreseen under the plan, the Secretary-General wrote. The reversal of "ethnic cleansing" and the return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes were also objectives of the plan.

The new operation would be under the overall political and stragetic control of the Security Council and financed collectively by United Nations Member States under the peace-keeping scale of assessments. The Secretary-General also proposed to establish an International Human Rights Monitoring Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and to designate members to a Boundary Commission.

* * *

The Security Council last night strongly condemned the shooting down by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) of a plane on humanitarian mission to the sity of Luena. According to a report today by the World Food Programme (WFP), one crew member was killed and another seriously injured when they stepped on a mine after the plane crash-landed.

In a statement read out by its President Jamsheed K.A. Marker (Pakistan), the Council said the "outrageous, hostile act" undermined the efforts of the international community to provide humanitarian relief to the suffering population in Angola. It demanded that UNITA take "all necessary measures" to prevent recurrence of such acts of violence against international humanitarian agencies.

The plane had delivered a cargo of 12 tonnes of maize to Luena and was shot at Monday morning after having left the city. The plane landed in a

(more)

minefield about one kilometre out of town. As the seven-member crew got out of the plane, two stepped on a mine and were seriously injured. One Russian crew member later died. The remaining crew members were rescued yesterday by another WFP plane.

Philippe Borel, WFP Director of Operations in Angola, called for immediate implementation of safer and better procedures to allow the delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians in Angola.

* * *

The General Assembly should exclude the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) from participating in the work of the Economic and Social Council during its summer session, according to resolution 821 (1993) adopted by the Security Council this morning.

By the text, adopted by a vote of 13 in favour with two abstentions (China and the Russian Federation), the Council reaffirmed that the Yugoslav Federal Republic could not continue automatically the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations and that the country should therefore apply for membership. The Council decided to consider the matter again before the end of the Assembly's forty-seventh session.

Under resolution 777 (1992), adopted before the beginning of the Assembly's forty-seventh session last September, the Council asked that the Yugoslav Federal Republic be excluded from the Assembly's work and decided that the country should apply for membership in the United Nations. The Assembly subsequently decided to exclude the country from participating in its meetings. In December 1992, the Council decided to keep the matter under continuous review.

* * *

The Bosnian Serb authorities have told the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that aid convoys will not be allowed into the besieged enclave of Gorazde for at least two weeks, according to a UNHCR statement issued today. The authorities, who had given assurances that convoys would be given safe passage, said fighting made movement impossible.

The Bosnian Serb move means new privations for the 60,000 people in Gorazde, the statement said. The authorities have only permitted eight convoys with 641 metric tons of aid to reach the town since December. A further 255 metric tons of aid have been supplied by air.

Meanwhile, Serb forces today confiscated some 20 metric tons of aid bound for the Bihac enclave. Yesterday, two UNHCR workers were injured by shrapnel in central Bosnia and Herzegovina when their convoy was caught in shelling.

The Bosnian Serbs have repeatedly used reports of fighting, or even anticipated hostilities, to hamper UNHCR operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the statement said.

(more)

* * *

Lord Owen, Co-Chairman of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, returned to New York today after a five-day tour of the Balkan region, followed by stops in several European capitals, according to a United Nations spokesman. On his way back, he met respectively with the German Foreign Minister in Bonn; the Danish Foreign Minister, who is currently head of the European Council of Ministers, in Copenhagen; and the French Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and other senior officials in Paris.

The most significant development regarding Bosnia and Herzegovina was the endorsement of the Vance-Owen plan by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the spokesman said. The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference would now look to that Government to pressure the Bosnian Serbs to sign it.

Meanwhile, talks between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia started this afternoon. The Co-Chairmen met first with the representative of Greece and then with the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

* * *

A "Programme for the Development of the Palestinian National Economy for the Years 1994-2000" was today outlined in the Paris Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People. Yusif A. Sayigh, Coordinator of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Programme, said it would focus on economic rehabilitation initially, followed by construction and economic diversification.

The Programme would require an annual investment of $11.6 billion, Mr. Sayigh said. It was based on the assumption that Palestinian territory occupied since 1967 would revert to Palestinian control, that displaced Palestinians could return home, and that the Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority could make decisions on economic and social matters.

The four-day Seminar was organized by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People as part of its effort to mobilize support for the development of occupied Palestinian territory.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Axel Wuestenhagen as Director of the United Nations Information Service in Vienna, as of 1 May. A national of Austria, Mr. Wuestenhagen was previously Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Athens. He succeeds Herbert Honsowitz, who has completed his service with the Organization.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1382
29 April 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Two-day meeting to convene in Athens on Saturday, 1 May, with all three parties to conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, chaired by Lord Owen, Cyrus Vance and his successor, Thorvald Stoltenberg.

+ General Assembly excludes Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) from work of Economic and Social Council; vote is 107 in favour to none against, with 11 abstentions.

+ Since end of March, six UNTAC peace-keepers, one Japanese volunteer and his interpreter killed in attacks against UNTAC; 15 others injured, Secretary-General reports.

+ UNICEF Executive Director says billions should not be spent on peace-keeping when humanitarian assistance needs are not fully met; notes shortfall in humanitarian appeal for Somalia, while $1 billion is spent on military intervention.

+ Basis for "ethnic cleansing" is being established in Latvia to force out tens of thousands of Russian-speaking inhabitants from the country, Russian President says.

+ Turkey says Armenia wrongly described comments by its leaders as "unfriendly"; accuses Armenia of fabricating allegations of Turkish military aid to Azerbaijan; calls on Yerevan to facilitate political solution to situation with Azerbaijan.

• • •

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, Lord Owen, Cyrus Vance and his successor, Thorvald Stoltenberg, will convene a two-day meeting of the three parties to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina in Athens on Saturday, 1 May, Fred Eckhardt, spokesman for the Co-Chairmen, told correspondents this afternoon at Headquarters.

The meeting has been called in response to the decision by the Bosnian Serbs to reconsider their refusal to sign the Vance/Owen peace plan and to

(more)

For information media—not an official record

schedule a second meeting of their Assembly next week. The purpose of this weekend's meeting will be to address security concerns, in particular those of the Bosnian Serbs in connection with the peace plan.

Among the issues to be discussed are the peace plan's concept of the internationally guaranteed corridors, which are to ensure freedom of movement throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina for the Bosnian Serb side, and of an International Access Authority, which would oversee the freedom of access to those corridors and guarantee it throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Participants in the meeting would be Franjo Tudjman, the President of Croatia, President Cosic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the Presidents of Serbia and of Montenegro. The three Bosnian parties would be represented by the President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovoc, the Bosnian Croat leader, Mate Boban, and Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader.

In a related development, the military commanders of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Bosnian Croats met yesterday to solidify their agreement to stop fighting. That agreement was brokered by Lord Owen in Zagreb last weekend, the spokesman said. Meanwhile, the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina was relatively calm today.

* * *

The General Assembly this morning decided that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should not participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council.

It took that action on the recommendation of the Security Council by adopting a resolution by a vote of 107 in favour to none against, with eleven abstentions (Cameroon, China, India, Iraq, Kenya, Lesotho, Mexico, Myanmar, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe). The Council yesterday reaffirmed that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia could not continue automatically the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Economic and Social Council was informed of the decision this morning by its President, Juan O.Somavia, as the Council continued its resumed organizational session at Headquarters.

* * *

Since late March, six peace-keepers serving with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and one Japanese volunteer and his interpreter have been killed in attacks against UNTAC, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has reported to the Security Council.

According to a letter to the Council President, dated 26 April, two of the slain peace-keepers were Bangladeshi and four Bulgarian. Another nine

(more)

Bulgarian soldiers, five Cambodian civilians and one Indonesian Civilian Police Monitor were injured in attacks mostly carried out by the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea (NADK), the letter said.

The Secretary-General was asked by the Council President at the beginning of April to report on casualties suffered by UNTAC, following an incident in which three Bulgarian soldiers were killed and three injured.
S/25669

* * *

It is senseless to spend billions of dollars on peace-keeping when smaller humanitarian assistance needs are no met, James Grant, Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), said today. Vast sums are spent to protect the delivery of relief, while the relief operations themselves scrape by, he told UNICEF's Executive Board, which is holding its annual two-week session at Headquarters.

Over $1 billion had been spent in the military intervention in Somalia, while only 10 per cent of the $150 million humanitarian appeal for 1993 had been contributed, Mr. Grant noted. A delicate balance had to be found between competing demands, while keeping the needs of children in sight.

Yesterday, several representatives told the Executive Board that economies in transition faced special financial problems, refugee influxes and environmental disasters, all of which threatened children. Although social safety nets had been introduced, reforms had been slow and had resulted in declining living standards, one delegate stressed.

* * *

The basis for "ethnic cleansing" was being established in Latvia to force out tens of thousands of Russian-speaking inhabitants from the country, President Boris Yeltsin has said in a statement.

The Supreme Council of Latvia had begun consideration of a draft decision "on the granting of temporary stationing of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in the Latvian Republic", the Russian President said. Such a decision, would give a considerable part of the population of Latvia one year to leave the country. The Latvian authorities intended to deprive Russian-speaking inhabitants of the right to free choice of a place of residence, which is a basic human right.

President Yeltsin went on to say that international law did not permit a State to take measures leading to the worsening of a situation in the field of human rights. The attention of the international community had repeatedly been drawn to the lack of legal protection for ethnic Russians in the Baltic countries, he said.

(more)

The statement was transmitted to the Secretary-General in a letter dated 23 April, by Yuliy M. Vorontsov, the Russian Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

* * *

Statements made by Turkey's leaders regarding the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan were wrongly described by Armenia as "unfriendly", Turkey's Permanent Representative to the United Nations has said in a letter to the Security Council. He was responding to a letter to the Council from Armenia's Permanent Representative.

Turkey's leaders had only asked Armenia to end its aggression against Azerbaijan, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and to contribute to peace in the region, the Turkish letter said.

Allegations that Turkey had sent weapons and servicemen disguised as civilians to Azerbaijan had been fabricated by Armenia in order to divert attention from its aggressive policy, according to the letter.

Turkey called on Armenia to respect its international commitments and to clear the way for a political solution to the situation with Azerbaijan. If Armenia complied, it could resume good relations with Turkey, which would ease its integration into the international community, the letter said.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1383
30 April 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ In first of three consecutive formal meetings today, Security Council demands immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces from Kelbadjar district and other recently occupied areas of Azerbaijan; calls for unimpeded access for humanitarian relief efforts.

+ Security Council extends UNAVEM II mandate for one more month, until end of May; asks Secretary-General to report on United Nations role in peace process; stresses readiness to expand Organization's presence in Angola.

+ Security Council, reviewing "An Agenda for Peace", says United Nations should consider economic and social issues when dealing with international peace and security; says social peace is as important as strategic or political peace.

+ Repatriation of some 370,000 Cambodian refugees successfully completed, according to spokesman for UNTAC; rehabilitation and reintegration efforts emphasized by High Commissioner for Refugees in Phnom Penh.

+ Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference leave New York for Athens to preside over new round of talks with all three Bosnian parties on Vance/Owen peace plan, their spokesman says.

+ Secretary-General appoints Gillian Martin Sorenson as Special Adviser for Information and Public Policy, with rank of Under-Secretary-General.

* * *

Alarmed over the escalation in armed hostilities between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the Security Council today demanded the immediate end to all hostile acts so that a cease-fire could be established. The Council also

(more)

For information media--not an official record

demanded the immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces from the Kelbadjar district in Azerbaijan and other recently occupied areas of that country.

The Council took that action at the first of three consecutive formal meetings held this afternoon, by adopting resolution 822 (1993) unanimously.

Under the text, the Council called for the unimpeded access for international humanitarian relief efforts in the region, in particular the areas affected by the conflict, in order to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population.

The Council urged the parties concerned to immediately resume the peace talks within the framework of the Minsk Group of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and refrain from any action that would obstruct a peaceful solution of the problem. It also asked the Secretary-General, in consultations with the CSCE, to assess the situation in the region, in particular in the Kelbadjar district of Azerbaijan and to submit a further report.

Among those addressing the Council after the vote, the Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations, Roble Olhaye, said his Government rejected the Armenian assertion that the conflict was between Nagorny-Karabakh and Azerbaijan, He expressed the hope that the Council would "call a spade a spade" and move in the right direction "consistent with reality".

Regarding Nagorny-Karabakh, the French Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Jean-Bernard Merimee, said it was essential that the clashes not be transformed into a conflict between States. The preamble of the resolution struck a reasonable balance between noting the tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan, while recognizing the local character of the combatants.

* * *

At a second meeting today, the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) for a further one-month period, until 31 May 1993. It did so by adopting unanimously resolution 823.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to submit a report on the situation in Angola, with recommendations for the role of the United Nations in the peace process. It also stressed its readiness to act promptly, on the Secretary-General's recommendation, to expand the Organization's presence in Angola in the event of significant progress in that process. UNAVEM II currently consists of 75 military observers, 30 police officers and 49 international civilian staff.

The Council also expressed the hope that the peace talks between the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), which resumed on 12 April in Ajuba, Côte d'Ivoire, would lead to an immediate cease-fire and the full implementation of the "Acordos de Paz". Those Peace Accords were signed by the Angolan Government and UNITA in May 1991.

The resolution demanded that attacks on humanitarian flights in Angola end immediately and that both parties, in particularly UNITA, take measures to safeguard UNAVEM II personnel.

Brazil's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg, said the fighting in Angola -- which violated a Council demand for a cease-fire -- had resulted in a humanitarian crisis of tragic proportions. Strong and urgent action by all relevant United Nations agencies was required to save lives and alleviate suffering.

The "Acordos de Paz" provided the framework for a peaceful and democratic process of national reconciliation, he said. Once both parties had reached an agreement calling for United Nations involvement, it would be the Organization's duty to respond without delay.

The Secretary-General had recommended the extension of UNAVEM II's mandate in a letter to the President of the Council. He noted that the United Nations role in Angola was on the agenda of the Côte d'Ivoire talks.

* * *

In meeting its responsibilities for maintaining international peace and security, the United Nations should focus on economic and social development as much as on political and security concerns, according to a statement by Security Council President Jamsheed K.A. Marker (Pakistan). The Council was today considering the subject of post-conflict peace-building as it continued its review of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's "An Agenda for Peace".

The Security Council, as the organ with primary responsibility for maintaining peace and security, fully recognized that social peace was as important as strategic or political peace, the statement said.

The Council emphasized the need to build strong foundations for peace, and highlighted the importance of United Nations work in the field of development cooperation. Activities such as disarming belligerent forces, assisting elections and clearing mines strengthened national political structures and provided a sound basis for peace.

The organizations and agencies of the United Nations had to be sensitive to the goal of strengthening peace and security as envisaged in Article 1 of the Charter, the statement said. Peace-building needed adequate financial resources and Member States and agencies should have funding available for specific projects.

The Secretary-General released "An Agenda for Peace" in June 1992 at the request of the Council at its first Summit Meeting held on 31 January, 1992. The report, which is reviewed regularly by the Security Council, analyses recent developments affecting international peace and security and introduces proposals aimed at improving the United Nations effectiveness in early warning of potential conflicts as well as post-conflict measures to build peace among former adversaries.

(more)

* * *

Some 370,000 Cambodians refugees have been returned to their country, putting effectively a successful end to the repatriation process started last year in the framework of the Paris Peace Agreements of 1991, told correspondents today in Phnom Penh Eric Falt, spokesman for the United Nations Provisional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

He said that the successful completion was made possible with the cooperation between UNTAC, various United Nations agencies under the leadership of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and all the parties which were signatories of the Paris Peace Accords.

"The peaceful and orderly return of the Cambodian refugees is both a clear expression of the confidence that the Cambodians have in the peace process and a decisive contribution to national reconciliation", commented Yasushi Akashi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Cambodia.

Up to now, some 88 percent of the returning families had chosen to receive the cash grant option, eight percent had selected residential plots of land with housing materials and three percent had opted for agricultural land, explained Mr. Falt. From now on, UNHCR in Phnom Penh would concentrate its efforts on the rehabilitation and the reintegration of the returnees, with the launching of a series of new Quick Impact projects to facilitate the recovery of the physical, social and economic infrastructures in the area of return.

As for the some 600 remaining Cambodian refugees in Thailand who refuse to go back, UNTAC spokesman stressed that their camp was now under Thai control. Already, the local authorities had expressed their willingness to treat these people as illegal immigrants subject to normal deportation procedures. UNHCR would not be associated with this operation, said Mr. Falt, stressing nevertheless that once in Cambodia, the refugees who presented themselves to the reception centres before 5 May would be assisted.

* * *

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia would leave New York tonight for Athens to preside over the meeting with all three Bosnian parties on the Vance/Owen peace plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina, their spokesman, Fred Eckhard, said today. Yesterday, he had told correspondents that the meeting was called following an announcement that the Bosnian Serb "Assembly" would reconvene on Wednesday, 5 May, with the intention of re-examining its previous decision not to sign the two outstanding documents of the peace plan. Those documents concern the map of provisional provincial boundaries and the agreement on interim arrangements.

The two Special Envoys of the Russian Federation and the United States were also expected to attend, along with a representative of the European Community, all three as observers. Thorvald Stoltenberg, Mr. Vance's successor as Co-Chairman, would also attend, the spokesman said.

Also, talks between the Greek Government and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia would "most likely" continue next week, Mr. Eckhard said.

(more)

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today appointed Gillian Martin Sorenson as his Special Adviser for Information and Public Policy, according to a United Nations spokesman. She will hold the rank of Under-Secretary-General.

Ms. Sorenson, who is a national of the United States, will oversee and coordinate matters relating to the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations in 1995. She will also undertake special assignments as requested by the Secretary-General.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1384
3 May 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council and Secretary-General welcome Bosnian Serbs' signing of Vance/Owen peace plan in Athens; Mr. Boutros-Ghali congratulates efforts of Co-Chairmen, says "extremely difficult" phase awaits as Security Council begins implementation of plan.

+ Secretary-General appoints Ismat Kittani as his Special Envoy for Tajikistan to promote a cease-fire and make recommendations on international monitoring mechanism in that country.

+ Colin Granderson of Trinidad and Tobago appointed Executive Director of United Nations/OAS International Civilian Mission to Haiti; Ian Martin of United Kingdom to be Director for Human Rights and Deputy to the Executive Director.

+ Colombian UNTAC Civilian Police monitor killed and Malaysian colleague severely injured in attack by unidentified armed assailants in Chamkar Leu district, Kompong Cham province.

+ Secretary-General authorizes waiver of immunity from legal process of Mexican United Nations Police Observer in El Salvador.

+ Only United Nations allows States to meet threats to human civilization, Secretary-General tells Rajiv Gandhi Foundation; threats to the environment, to development, to health and to peace cannot be met alone.

+ Freedom of expression is fundamental human right that should not be limited, Director-General of UNESCO says on International Press Freedom Day; stresses that press freedom is essential to development of democracy.

+ World Health Assembly begins forty-sixth session in Geneva today, with WHO seeking approval for $1.8 million budget for next two years.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

* * *

The members of the Security Council have welcomed the fact that the Vance-Owen Peace Plan had now been signed in its entirety by all the parties. In a Presidential statement issued tonight, they also informed the Secretary-General that they had already started consultations to consider urgently what concrete actions are to be taken in the light of Mr. Boutros-Ghali's report to the Council on the activities of the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia.

Earlier today, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had welcomed the signing by Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic of the provisional provincial map and the Agreement on Interim Arrangements yesterday in Athens, according to a statement issued at Headquarters. All the Bosnian parties were now committed to the Vance/Owen plan for peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it noted.

The entry into force of the plan was a major achievement as only a negotiated solution could bring peace to the region, the statement continued. The peace process would now enter an extremely difficult phase as the international community, through the Security Council, began to implement the plan. It would be "a large, expensive, complicated, difficult operation", it said.

The Secretary-General congratulated Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on former Yugoslavia, on their work. He praised Mr. Vance's long service to the United Nations and to peace, and thanked the Government of Greece for its hospitality to the negotiators.

Meanwhile, the Co-Chairmen's spokesman, Fred Eckhard told correspondents today at Headquarters that the three Bosnian parties, during the interim period, were free to negotiate among themselves further changes in the map.

Mr. Eckhard said it might be possible for the three parties, if the ceace-fire was holding and the atmosphere improved, to work out marginal changes in the map before the final Constitution was drawn up. Such changes could be made through the Boundary Commission, which would be established to make "more precise" the lines on the map. The Commission could also make changes in Sarajevo Province, but without the constraint that these be only marginal, Fred Eckhard said.

Also this afternoon, speaking to correspondents about the situation in the former Yugoslavia following the signing of the Peace Agreements by all parties, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney indicated that his country would carefully examine any requests for further assistance from the Secretary-General "if that were deemed to contribute to the implementation of the preliminary agreement".

Prior to the press briefing, Mr. Mulroney had a meeting with Secretary-General for a tour d'horizon of the international situation.

(more)

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to appoint Ismat Kittani his Special Envoy for Tajikistan to promote a cease-fire and to make recommendations on an international monitoring mechanism in that country, according to a letter to the President of the Security Council.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali wrote in the letter that the mandate of his new Special Envoy would also be to seek the help of neighbouring countries and others concerned in achieving peace in Tajikistan.

A small United Nations Mission of Observers (UNMOT) was sent to Tajikistan in January to monitor the situation and to provide up-to-date information on the conflict there. The Mission had recently warned that "there could be an escalation of the confrontation" in the border areas between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, "unless urgent action is taken to establish a cease-fire and a political dialogue among all concerned", the letter said.

The Security Council has welcomed the Secretary-General's appointment and his decision to extend the mandate of UNMOT for another three months so that it can continue its monitoring and humanitarian efforts and provide support to the Special Envoy.
S/25697, S/25698

* * *

The Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) have agreed on the appointment of Colin Granderson (Trinidad and Tobago) as Executive Director of the United Nations/OAS Joint International Civilian Mission to Haiti, according to a United Nations spokesman.

Mr. Granderson, who holds the rank of Ambassador in his country's foreign service, will be responsible for directing the overall operation of the Joint Mission in Haiti. Up to now, he has been the Coordinator of the OAS contingent of the Mission.

The Secretaries-General have also agreed on the appointment of Ian Martin (United Kingdom) as Director for Human Rights and Deputy to the Executive Director of the Joint Mission. Mr. Martin, a former Secretary-General of Amnesty International, has been a Senior Associate with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, in Washington D.C.

* * *

Caicedo Venancio of Colombia, a Civilian Police monitor serving with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), was killed and a Malaysian Civilian Police severely injured in an attack on 30 April in Chamkar Leu district, Kompong Cham province. The two UNTAC peace-keepers had left their headquarters to transport one of their collegues, another Colombian Civilian Police, to a hospital in Kompong Cham, when they were attacked by a group of armed assailants.

(more)

According to a spokesman for UNTAC, it had not been possible to identify the attackers, but Military and Civilian Police teams were investigating the incident.

The 28 year-old Colombian UNTAC peace-keeper is the eleventh UNTAC member to have died as a result of hostile action, the spokesman said.

• • •

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has authorized the waiver of immunity from legal process of a lieutenant in the Highway and Port Authority of the Mexican Police Force, currently assigned to the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), according to a United Nations spokesman today. The waiver was granted to facilitate the investigation in connection with the case against the Mexican national and six Salvadorian nationals for illegal drug trafficking.

The waiver does not extend however to immunity from personal arrest, detention or other related aspects. According to Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, which covers ONUSAL police observers in their capacity as experts, the Secretary-General has the right and the duty to waive the immunity of any expert in any case where the immunity would impede the course of justice.

• • •

Almost all the major threats to human civilization transcended the nation State, and the only mechanism which permitted all States to work together was the United Nations, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said in a message to the Conference of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. The Conference in honour of the former Indian Prime Minister, who was assassinated in 1991, was held in New Delhi on 1 and 2 May.

The crucial challenge was to make the United Nations work, as States could not meet threats to the environment, to development, to health and to peace on their own, the Secretary-General said. The collapse of the cold war structures of international relations had brought many problems but had also offered a unique window of opportunity. The Organization was being revitalized as people realized that the main issues confronting them were interconnected.

Peace, development and democracy were mutually reinforcing, and the United Nations could no longer compartmentalize its work, he stressed. Among the issues which needed to be reconsidered were disarmament and arms control, development and the North/South relationship, and peacemaking, peace-keeping and peace-building.

• • •

Freedom of expression is a fundamental human right that should not be limited, Frederico Mayor, Director-General of the United Nations Educational,

(more)

Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), said today in a message for International Press Freedom Day.

Freedom of the press is essential for the development of democracy, he stressed. The resurgence of hatred and violence in Europe threatened the openness of mind which safeguarded the future. Elsewhere, shortcomings in communication and information restricted intellectual freedom, with serious repercussions for democracy.

Independent presses could be promoted by drawing up constitutional guarantees of freedom, strengthening organizations of editors and journalists, and establishing economic structures for development, he said. UNESCO would work to allow journalists to exercise their profession freely and to have the broadest possible access to information.

International Press Freedom Day was proclaimed to commemorate the Windhoek Declaration, which was adopted at the 1991 Seminar on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press. The Seminar was organized by UNESCO in the Namibian capital.

* * *

The forty-sixth World Health Assembly began its session today in Geneva with the World Health Organization (WHO) seeking approval from its 185 member States for a $1.8 billion budget for the next two years. The budget reflects all of WHO's priorities to fight illness and disease in the world, including the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), malaria, tuberculosis, immunization programmes, emergency and humanitarian relief, nutrition and health and development.

The proposed regular working budget for 1994-1995, which amounts to more than $870 million, is made up of assessed contributions from member States. Extrabudgetary contributions should amount to almost $1 billion for the same period of time, bringing the total budget to 1.8 million, according to WHO's estimates.

On Wednesday, the Assembly is scheduled to elect WHO's Director-General for the next five years. Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima has been nominated for a second term of office by the 31-member Executive Board. The election is conducted by secret ballot.

The Assembly convenes against a background of profound economic and political changes internationally, including a global recession and military conflicts, which make WHO objective of achieving the highest possible level of health for all peoples a greater challenge than ever before.

* * *

Correction:

The Secretary-General's new Special Advisor for Information and Public Policy is Gillian Martin Sorensen. Her last name was misspelled in Friday Highlights, 30 April, 1993.

* *** *